Museum of
Afro American History
African Meeting House
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Dudley Station
(Rox-No. Dor.)

Byron Rushing, *President*

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WHAT TIME IS THIS STATION?

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WHAT TIME IS THIS STATION?

THE MUSEUM OF AFRO AMERICAN HISTORY has received partial funding from the National Endowment for the Arts to conduct a twelve - month community exposition project entitled What Time Is This Station? What Time Is This Station? will focus on Dudley Station - the transportation and commercial center of the Afro American community of Boston. With the collaboration of Dudley Station area merchants, the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority and other Dudley Station area actors, the project will develop and present a series of exhibits, concerts, street fairs, attractive, informative graphics and educational programs in and about Dudley Station. What Time Is This Station? will establish a monitoring and coordinating body for cultural activities within the station and its immediate vicinity.

WHY DUDLEY STATION?

Dudley Station is the commercial and transportation center of Roxbury. It primarily serves Boston's Black community and it has a significant Puerto Rican clientele. On the average, over 20,000 people pas through Dudley Station daily. Unfortunately, however, there are no interesting programs, events, exhibits, graphics or community orientation centers within Dudley Station itself to attract the attention of those thousands who merely pass through to spend their consumer dollars in downtown Boston or at suburban shopping malls. On the contrary, Dudley Station is not even kept very clean, and up to now there has been no community-based institution capable or willing to sustain a long-term effort to coordinate the enrichment of the Dudley Station environment. As the center of our largest commercial district, we cannot afford to allow Dudley Station to remain a dull, dirty, uninteresting space in the middle of our community.

We need only to visit any successful suburban shopping mall to see thousands of dollars spent on public relations programs; graphic themes; exhibits; contests; concerts; orientation centers; all the things that Dudley Station lacks. Whitness the Combat Zone where merchants pooled $40,000 and hired a firm just to improve the image of the "entertainment district." Dudley Station needs a similar effort on a grander scale.

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WHY IS THE MUSEUM OF AFRO AMERICAN HISTORY DOING THIS?

We at THE MUSEUM OF AFRO AMERICAN HISTORY feel that the appreciation of history in a vacuum, with no demonstrated relationship between then and now and the future, makes no sense. We view history as a dynamic process and with this view THE MUSEUM OF AFRO AMERICAN HISTORY will undertake What Time Is This Station? from July 1975- June 1976.

We also feel a strong committment to our immediate neighborhood, the Dudley Station area. Our expertise as a museum, lies in the translation of historical and contemporary data into attractive, engaging, educational programs. Dudley Station's need for such programs affords a logical marriage which will be realized in What Time Is This Station?

WHAT ARE WE PLANNING?

I. Street Fairs - What Time Is This Station? will sponsor a series of street fairs in the Dudley Station area in which merchants will give store tours, display artifacts of special interest in their store windows and/or give demonstrations of aspects of their crafts,etc.

II. Dudley Station:Past - This exhibit will last ten months and it will tell the story of the Dudley Station neighborhood from the present to as far back as we can go.(September 1975)

III. Dudley Station:Present - This exhibit consists of four simulated Dudley Station area environments that will all be constructed in one large space. These environments might be a supermarket, courthouse, police station, post office or others. Stocked with artifacts from

the corresponding real environments, Dudley Station: Present will serve as a role-playing activity center for neighborhood school children on a regular basis and merchants will be invited to conduct classes in their trades and crafts. Running time for this exhibit is eight months. (November 1975)

IV. Dudley Station: Future - This exhibit will present the most current plans for the elevated train structure and for the Dudley Station area. The exhibit will last six months. (January 1976)

V. Special Events - During the course of What Time Is This Station? the project staff plans to hold special events (i.e. dances, concerts, contests, etc.) in trains, in Dudley Station and in the immediate vicinity of the Station.

VI. Communications: Supergraphics - What Time Is This Station? will monitor all graphic images to be painted or otherwise presented within Dudley Station. Graphic images will also be generated by What Time Is This Station? All images to be presented in Dudley Station should be relevant and in good taste.

VII. Communications: Community Kiosks - Community Kiosks or bulletin boards will be constructed and monitored by What Time Is This Station? One should be placed near the project headquarters which will also serve as a Dudley Station information and orientation center.

VIII. Communications: Public Address - What Time Is This Station? will make every effort to collaborate with the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority to use the existing Public Address System in Dudley Station for the announcement of community events and programs.

IX. Coordination - What Time Is This Station? will coordinate all community activities within the Dudley Station and serve as the community liaison between the M.B.T.A. and the Dudley Station community.

HOW MUCH WILL THIS COST?

To accomplish the project goals will cost $143,000. The National Endowment for the Arts has granted partial funding for the project - $40,000. This is granted, however, on a matching basis-meaning that the museum must raise $40,000 to receive the $40,000 granted by the Endowment.

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